Newspaper Clips

February 1, 2011

Hindustan Times, ND 01-Feb-11 P-1

COURSE CORRECTION

Get registered or face jail, govt tells education agents

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NEW DELHI: Agents misleading students into joining fake universities abroad like the California-based Tri-Valley University (TVU) will face jail terms under a new law the government plans to enact soon.

The ministry of overseas Indian affairs will introduce a Bill in the coming session of Parliament, making it mandatory for all education agents to register with the government, top officials told HT.

"It provides for both a fine and a jail term for unregistered education agents found luring students abroad," a senior official said. The Bill also aims to create a database of students studying abroad, but in this case, stops short of making it compulsory for them to register before leaving, sources said.

STEPS GOVT IS PLANNING

- Punishing – with both a jail term and a fine – education agents who do not register with the government under a new legislation.
- Creating a database, where students will be encouraged to register before going abroad. Registration, however, will not be mandatory.
- In the aftermath of the TVU incident, the government is rushing to try and introduce a Bill to enact the new legislation in the Budget Session of Parliament.

Registering, however, will entitle students to seek government help in checking out the authenticity of the institute and the course before they leave India.

The HRD ministry is understood to have given its assent to the bill.

Overseas India affairs minister Vyalar Ravi had in July 2009 told Parliament that his ministry would create a database of students going abroad.

>> TAGGING STANDARD, P15

Radio-tagging standard procedure: US

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NEW DELHI: Soon after India strongly condemned the radio-tagging of Indian students duped by a fake university in San Francisco, the US on Monday defended the practice, saying it was a "standard procedure" for a variety of investigations and did not imply guilt or suspicion of criminal activity.

The US also assured its department of homeland security was probing the closure of Tri-Valley University in San Francisco.

> **Use of ankle monitors is widespread across the United States**
> US EMBASSY

Some 1,555 students of the university, 90% of them from India, mostly Andhra Pradesh, face the prospect of deportation following the closure of the university in Pleasanton on charges of selling student visas.

"Use of ankle monitors is widespread across the United States and standard procedure for a variety of investigations, and does not necessarily imply guilt or suspicion of criminal activity," the US embassy said in a statement.

"Some of those involved in the Tri-Valley investigation have been issued ankle monitors," the embassy said.

"An ankle monitor sends a radio frequency signal containing location and other information to a receiver. It allows for freedom of movement and is a positive alternative to confinement during a pending investigation. The Department of State is following this case closely and is in regular communication with Government of India officials," the embassy said.

"The Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement division is leading the investigation, and as an ongoing investigation it would be inappropriate to discuss further details at this time," it said.

On Sunday, external affairs minister SM Krishna demanded the US government "initiate severe action against those officials responsible for this inhuman act".

Times of India ND 01/02/2011 p-13

Rahul supports foreign edu bill

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress general secretary Rahul Gandhi came out in full support of the Foreign Education Providers' Bill on Monday in the meeting of Parliament's Standing Committee on ministry of human resource development.

Sources said BJP's Kirti Azad supported the idea of a law but said the bill in the current form does not solve the problem. Rahul's contention was that the content of the bill could be finalised through discussion but there was a need for a law. Azad said the bill gave too much leeway to foreign universities. Also, there was no reservation. Such institutions would become out of bounds for economically and socially backward sections, he said.

One view was that instead of giving too much freedom to foreign institutions, government should instead improve existing universities. Members of the Left party, however, have opposed the bill.

HRD officials made a detailed presentation on the bill. Now, the standing committee will send a questionnaire on the bill to the ministry. A different version of the bill was prepared during the UPA government's first tenure but it could not be introduced at the last minute due to stiff opposition from the Left.

Left has been maintaining that there is a need for regulating the existing private universities and fly-by-night operators claiming collaboration from foreign universities. Left parties are in favour of collaboration with foreign universities rather than them setting up campuses in India.

Times of India ND p-13
01/02/2011

IIT prof loses job over sex charges

Mumbai: S K Gupta, a faculty member of IIT-Bombay, has been asked to compulsorily retire after two students filed complaints of sexual harassment against him. Besides asking him to leave, the board of governors passed an order to reduce his pension and gratuity by a third, an IIT-B spokesperson said.

Gupta, who headed the Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering about five years ago, was a senior professor at the institute and considered an expert on waste management. Jaya Joshi, IIT-B's public relations officer, said the institute received a complaint in January 2009 after the victims raised the matter with the student counsellor. One was a project staff assisting him and the other, a PhD student. Another MTech student who left the institute a year before these cases, in 2007, and joined IIT-Delhi was probably harassed, too. But she did not file a complaint, alleged a PhD student.

In March 2009, after Gupta was suspended, word had spread on campus, and hostels were abuzz with various versions of the incident. The girl, who was pursuing her PhD, recently completed it and deposed as a witness, although she too was a victim.

He had also recently appealed to President Pratibha Patil claiming innocence. TNN

Times of India ND 01/02/2011 p-13

HRD min & state govts spar over site of Central varsities

Akshaya Mukul | TNN

New Delhi: The location of Central universities in Bihar and Kerala has become a prestige issue between the HRD ministry and the state governments.

On Wednesday, Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar will raise the issue with the Prime Minister. Though Bihar government has selected a site in Motihari, the ministry has insisted that the varsity should be situated near Patna.

The Centre's argument is that Motihari will not attract good faculty and students since it is far from the state capital and lacks infrastructure. Kumar has already announced that the site of the Central university will not be shifted. The CM had even made it a part of the assembly poll campaign.

> In Bihar, the Centre wants the varsity to come up near Patna, but the state has argued that development should be decentralized, and not just restricted to the state capital

Any change in venue, sources said, would snowball into a controversy in the state. At present, the varsity is functioning from rented premises in Patna. Bihar government officials maintain that development should be decentralized, and not just restricted to Patna and neighbouring areas.

Besides, an IIT is coming up in Bihta, which is situated around 30 km from Patna. Since the ministry has refused to relent, sources said the matter would be taken up with the PM. "Two years have already passed. The Central University in Bihar is going to lag behind its counterparts," a source said.

In Kerala, too, the state government has shortlisted a 500-acre plot in Kasargod. But despite the Centre's objections over the fencing of the plot, the state government is reluctant to change the site.

Times of India ND 01/02/2011 p-23

Artificial petrol at ₹14 a litre

Hydrogen-Based Fuel Is Eco-Friendly, May Hit Market In 3 Years

London: British scientists have developed a low-cost and environment-friendly "artificial petrol" which may cost around Rs 14 a litre and could be available at pumps in as early as three years.

The scientists who are refining the recipe for the new hydrogen-based fuel said it will run in existing cars and engines at the fraction of the cost of conventional petrol. The "artificial petrol" is expected to cost around $1.50 a gallon or 19 pence (about Rs 14) a litre.

With hydrogen at its heart rather than carbon, it will not produce any harmful emissions when burnt, making it better for the environment, as well as easier on the wallet, the Daily Mail reported. Stephen Bennington, who led the team involved in the project, said: "In some senses, hydrogen is the perfect fuel. It has three times more energy than petrol per unit of weight, and when it burns, it produces nothing but water.

DRIVING TOWARDS A GREEN FUTURE

"Our new hydrogen storage materials offer real potential for running cars, planes and other vehicles that currently use hydrocarbons," he added.

According to the report, the first road tests are due next year and, if all goes well, the cut-price "petrol" could be on sale in three to five years. Energy from hydrogen can be harnessed by burning the gas or combining it with oxygen in a fuel cell to produce electricity. But current methods of storing hydrogen are expensive and not very safe.

To get round this, the team from the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, near Oxford, University College London and Oxford University have found a way of densely packing hydrogen into tiny beads that can be poured or pumped like a liquid.

The scientists also noted that a tankful of the artificial petrol, which has yet to be given a brand name, is expected to last 300 to 400 miles, in line with conventional fuel. PTI

Times of India ND
01/02/2011 p-23

Key spot in brain found; now, pop a pill to kick the butt

Paris: Scientists have pinpointed a source of nicotine craving in the brain, opening up a new path towards drug treatments to help smokers kick their habit, according to a study released Sunday.

In experiments with mice and rats, the researchers mapped the functioning of a gene called CHRNA5 that has been previously fingered in nicotine addiction. The gene controls a receptor which responds to nicotine molecules.

With a normal version of this gene, anything more than a tiny dose of nicotine triggers a message to the brain which says, in effect, "stop consuming," scientists found. Larger doses unleash a sense of repulsion, similar to "bad-tasting food or drink," lead researcher Paul Kenny at the Scripps Research Institute in Florida said in an email exchange. But the effect was quite different in mice in which a tiny sub-unit of the receptor, known as alpha5, had been knocked out.

The negative message was never sent — and as a result, the rodents couldn't get enough of the potent drug. A similar scenario occurs naturally in some humans, the researchers believe. On the strength of the new findings Kenny plans to design a new category of drugs. AFP

STUBBING IT OUT

How parents pass on smoking habits

Fathers transmit their smoking habits to their sons, while mothers do the same for daughters. However, if a mother smokes it does not seem to induce the son to smoke, and similarly a father who smokes does not affect his daughter, says a new study. The probabilities of a son smoking if both parents smoke is 24% while for daughters it is 23%, but this falls to 12% for both sons and daughters if neither of the parents smokes. IANS

Times of India
ND 01/02/2011
p-23

Energy-saving bulbs tied to high risk of breast cancer

London: Energy saving light bulbs could result in higher breast cancer rates if used late at night.

Abraham Haim, professor of biology at Haifa University in Israel, said that the bluer light that compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) emitted, closely mimicked daylight. But the flip side is it disrupted the body's production of the hormone melatonin more than older-style filament bulbs, which cast a yellower light, the journal Chronobiology International reports.

Melatonin, thought to protect against some breast and prostate cancers, is produced and secreted by the brain's pineal gland round the clock, according to the Telegraph. Highest secretion levels are at night but light depresses production, even if one's eyes are shut. A possible link between night time light exposure and breast cancer risk has been known for over a decade, since a study was published showing female shift workers were more likely to develop the disease.

Haim explained a recent study by him and fellow colleagues found a much stronger association than previous research between nighttime bedroom light levels and breast cancer rates.Their study found breast cancer rates were up to 22% higher in women who slept with a light on, compared to those who slept in total darkness. IANS

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Feb 1, 2011;Section: Times City;Page: 2;

Sodomy case against AIIMS doctor

Durgesh Nandan Jha & Indrani Basu | TNN

New Delhi: A case under sections 377 (unnatural sex), 511 (attempt to sodomy) and 506 (criminal intimidation), and section 23 of the Juvenile Justice Act was registered against a senior resident doctor of AIIMS on Monday evening at the Hauz Khas police station following a police complaint by the victim's father.

However, the accused doctor was reportedly not named in the FIR, said police sources.

Deputy commissioner of police (south) HGS Dhaliwal confirmed to TOI: "We have registered a case and will be making our investigations thoroughly from all angles." The police reportedly questioned the child to check his reaction following the complaint and have as yet not named the accused doctor in the FIR.

"The child will be taken for a counselling session where we can establish the clear chronology of events. There are no witnesses as such but we are questioning those who saw the doctor and the child come in and out of the duty room. We are conducting an independent investigation while the AIIMS internal investigation is on," said a senior police officer on condition of anonymity. The child is reportedly to be taken for a medical examination on Tuesday morning by the police.

The father of the victim, meanwhile, said, "We are fighting this case as this could have happened to any child and such an incident should not take place in an institute of repute. We have no complaints regarding the medical treatment given to the child but the accused must be brought to book so that such an incident is not repeated by him and our action should serve as deterrent to others who might plan to commit such a crime."

The AIIMS authorities, however, said that no disciplinary action could be taken unless the inquiry committee report was submitted. "The report is likely to be submitted in a day or two. We have barred the accused doctor from working in the hospital till the date of submission of the report. If he is found guilty, the strongest

Neelabh

possible action, including dismissal from services, will be taken," said Dr Y K Gupta, the institute spokesperson.

He said that the matter was reported to them on January 24 following which the DDA and the Director set up a fact-finding committee headed by Professor Arti Vij. "She interviewed the ICU attendants and other staff and submitted a report on January 25. We barred the accused doctor from any services henceforth and another committee, comprising the head of the endocrinology department Dr A C Ammini, who also heads the committee for prevention of sexual harassment, a clinical psychologist and a neurologist among others, was formed. It is likely to submit a report by Tuesday," said Gupta.

The accused doctor has claimed during a meeting with the AIIMS committee that he had committed no wrong. Sources in the hospital said that the doctor has claimed, in his response, to have called the child to the duty room for examination while he was going to the toilet. "I have committed no wrong. I was only examining the child," the doctor said.

The accused doctor, sources said, had approached the Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) for support but they in turn said in a statement that the law should take its course.

AIIMS officials say that no medical examination of the patient was conducted by either of the inquiry committees, thus causing the loss of crucial evidence.

The child has a problem in his right eye and can see from his left eye. According to his parents, his medical condition came to light a month ago and he was referred to the AIIMS OPD. The biopsy report of his tumour that was sent to Mumbai is yet to arrive, said his father. A bright student of class 1 in a school in Shahadra, he is coherent and able to describe the incident in detail.

Said well-established criminal psychologist Dr Jayanti Datta, "It is best if the child is made to narrate the entire scenario in a secure environment as the fear component in such situations is very high among children. Such an act can remain a burden for the child for the rest of his life as it causes severe mental agony."

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Feb 1, 2011;Section: Times City;Page: 7;

VC stumped by DU students

Faces Tough Questions On Various Issues During Interaction

Manash Pratim Gohain | TNN

New Delhi: Delhi University VC Dinesh Singh and his team faced a tough time on Monday as students grilled them on several issues, including absent teachers, strikes, security, outdated syllabus and inadequate infrastructure. Interacting with Singh at the multipurpose hall of the University Sports Complex, students claimed the newly-appointed dean of colleges was shirking his duties.

The session started with Singh introducing his team to the students and then briefly talking about "the rich history" of the university. The VC told students that his agenda for next five years includes completion of projects like the introduction of the semester in the arts and science streams from July 2011 and finishing work on 1,500-seat women's hostel for undergraduate students at Dhaka.

> Though Singh tried to answer most of the questions, students remained unmoved because in most cases he simply said that the university can't directly intervene in college affairs

The VC said colleges will launch innovative courses that will allow multi-disciplinary studies. The university will soon get a Facebook profile and DU officials hoped that through the networking site, they will be able connect better with students. The university has also earmarked around Rs 2cr for special students.

But even as students appreciated initiatives that augmented infrastructure — each college got 80 computers recently and plans are afoot to provide Wi-Fi on the campus — they had some tough questions for Singh and his team. When it came to interactive session, students from across colleges complained about lack of basic amenities, security, outdated syllabi, missing teachers and unfriendly atmosphere for the physically challenged. Neha Tomar of Dayal Singh (evening) College said: "Despite getting the approval to offer a BA in journalism my college is sitting over it. I also wonder how long will it take to complete construction of the new building?"

Kanika of Laxmibai College wanted to know why off campus colleges are not as safe as those in the North Campus.

Though Singh tried to answer most of the questions, students remained unconvinced because in most cases he simply said that the university can't directly intervene in college affairs. He, however, promised students that the university will take note of each complaints and will try to resolve them. A student of philosophy, Anurag Singh, said: "They are just pretending. Nothing concrete has been said here.

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Feb 1, 2011;Section: Times Nation;Page: 10;

US justifies radio trackers, says tags don't imply guilt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: The US authorities on Monday justified radio trackers around ankles of students duped by California's Tri-Valley University.

The US consulate in Hyderabad issued a press statement saying, "The use of ankle monitors is widespread across the US and a standard procedure for a variety of investigations and does not necessarily imply guilt or suspicion of criminal activity."

On Sunday, external affairs minister S M Krishna had condemned tagging of the Indian students. He had demanded immediate removal of the radio collars and punishment of officials responsible for the "inhuman act".

But on Monday he backtracked from his statement and said that there isn't much India can do if US administration takes legal measures to track illegal students. "There's hardly anything India can do if the US laws permit such action to track students who are considered illegal immigrants. Each country is governed by its laws," Krishna said.

Krishna's earlier statement was issued after All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO) met US consulate officials on Monday demanding intervention. The meeting was attended by members of political parties, including TDP, TRS and CPI.

"We met consulate officials. They assured us that the students will not be ill-treated in the US. There are around 180 bogus universities which have recruited from Andhra Pradesh," said Dr D Sudhakar of AIPSO.

Parents and relatives of students stuck in the US blamed members of the Telugu community for cheating their children. Several people from Andhra Pradesh, settled in the US, allegedly helped the Tri-Valley University in luring students from the state. US universities usually conduct admission through reputed city-based agencies. But, Tri-Valley university would fly down its Telugu agents from the US to Hyderabad every six months to publicize its courses and admit students.

Family members of some students are also suspicious about Telugu Association of North America's (TANA) role in helping students.

Oz college closure may hit Indian students: A Melbourne-based private institute is on the verge of financial collapse, threatening future of over 4000 students, including from India. Private college giant 'Carrick' has now sought financial help from Victorian government to guarantee its future. The institute is relying on a $10 million deal with Victorian public TAFE Holmesglen, The Australian reported. The deal, likely to be finalized by on Tuesday. PTI

Publication: The Times Of India Delhi;Date: Feb 1, 2011;Section: Editorial;Page: 22;

Food For Health

Prioritise child nutrition to secure developmental goals

With food inflation going through the roof in recent weeks, government food schemes for children have taken a significant hit. States such as Assam, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur and Bihar have either not been able to provide supplementary nutrition under the Integrated Child Development scheme or have downgraded to dry rations instead of cooked meals. Midday meal providers in primary schools too are being forced to compromise on their menu. The net result is a considerable reduction in the nutritive value of the food schemes, which could severely hamper child development.

This goes against the letter and spirit of the Supreme Court direction in 2001 that had directed the government to ensure the supply of nutritious cooked meals to all children in primary schools. The multiple benefits of the programme, which include eradication of child hunger, keeping children in schools and bridging caste disparities through communal dining, have long been recognised. Yet the implementation of the food schemes has been lacklustre. India has an estimated 40% of the world's severely malnourished children under five years of age. Around half of reported infant deaths are related to malnutrition. Securing the future growth and development of the country demands that our children have access to proper nutrition. It is imperative that the government assigns top priority to the issue and insulates child food schemes from budgetary cuts. Linking the cost of supplementary nutrition programmes to the consumer price index is a good idea.

On the other end of the scale, the issue of unhealthy dietary habits among schoolchildren deserves greater attention. Surveys conducted in Delhi-NCR indicate that around 75% of schoolchildren regularly snack on junk food high on trans-fats and empty calories. As a consequence of this trend, 16% of children across the country are overweight, putting them at risk of a plethora of lifestyle diseases. There is a strong case for cracking the whip on school canteens that sell junk food such as colas and deep-fried chips and replacing them with healthier options. Besides, much of what a child eats determines his development graph in school.

Independent studies in the UK have shown that healthier menus in school cafeterias have led to improved student performance in subjects such as science and English. They also cut down student absenteeism due to illness by 15%. Taken together, there is a pressing need to address child nutrition not only in terms of delivery but also in terms of quality. The solution lies in creating greater awareness among children and parents, as well as robust government-private partnership in mitigating child hunger and promoting healthy dietary standards.

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Lifting fingerprints from fabric to help fight crime

ondon: In what could change ıe face of forensics forever, sci-ıtists in Scotland have devel-ped a new technique which they aim could lift fingerprints from oth and household fabrics such s curtains and couches.

In the past, forensic officers ave only been able to take finger-rints from solid objects. But, the ew technique means that full ts of prints can now be taken om clothing and fabrics, 'The cotsman' reported. The ground-reaking research was carried ıt by the University of Abertay ıd Scottish Police Services Au-ıority (SPSA) laboratories.

Paul Deacon, fingerprint nit manager at the SPSA, said: 'This is cutting-edge research hich will increase the type of ases we can look at. There's now irtually no smooth surface we

NO ESCAPE ROUTE

don't have some chance of find-ing a print on. This is just the tip of the iceberg."

A piece of fabric is put into a vacuum chamber and a fine lay-er of gold is spread over it. Zinc is then added which sticks to the gold but not where there are ridges or remains of a finger-print. The fabric then looks like a photographic negative where the fabric appears grey except for the fingerprint.

The scientists used one of two existing machines in Scot-land which have been effective for decades in getting prints off smooth, solid objects. The ma-chine, using vacuum metal dep-osition (VMD), was originally used to make car lamps. This is the first time its use has been ex-panded to reliably get prints from fabric. The research found fabrics with thread counts of more than three per millimetre, such as silk or nylon, were best for catching a full print. PTI

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Google, Bharti arm tie up to educate rural India

New Delhi: Google and Bhar-ti Foundation, the philan-thropic arm of Bharti Enter-prises, on Monday jointly announced an initiative to support the Satya Bharti schools, run by the Bharti Foundation.

As part of the agreement, Google will provide financial support of $5 million to up-grade and support 50 elemen-tary schools run by the Bhar-ti Foundation in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. These schools will be named as Sa-tya Elementary schools. TNN

Business Line ND 1/02/2011 P-9

Swansea University partners Tata Steel for affordable solar energy

Tech will have application worldwide, including off-grid remote regions

Vidya Ram
London, Jan. 31

Imagine a home whose four outer walls and roof are capable of capturing, storing and eventually releasing all the energy you need to meet your household needs with the potential to release the excess back into the grid. That's the vision of an ambitious project run by a consortium led by Tata Steel, at Swansea University here in the UK.

The Sustainable Product Engineering Centre for Innovative Functional Industrial Coatings (SPECIFIC) has a total of £20 million pounds in funding, to create so-called 'functional generating coatings' for both steel and glass, integrating them into the very fabrics of those materials. "The vision is to transform buildings into power stations," says Mr Kevin Bygate, Director of the SPECIFIC project. "It's a paradigm shift. Energy can be generated and used at the point of use."

Last October, the project received a £9.5 million grant from EPSRC, the UK agency responsible for dispensing funding research in engineering and the physical sciences and the Technology Strategy Board. Other commercial partners include BASF, Beckers, Akzo Nobel, glass maker Pilkington, Johnson Mathey and solar cell firm Dyesol. Other academic partners include Imperial College London, Bath and Strathclyde Universities.

AFFORDABILITY

While existing technology for capturing solar energy has focused on efficiency, the SPECIFIC project is targeting affordability. "The aim is to produce this on a very large-scale and very low cost," says Mr Bygate.

The project, which will be based at a dedicated innovation centre in Baglan, near Tata Steel's Port Talbot works in South Wales, and will have a total of 50 researchers, is already up and running and in its early research phase. The team hopes to move to the laboratory stage, where "proof of concept" – pieces of material, roughly the size of an A4 sheet of paper, will be produced within the next six months. Then on to the first stage of upscaling – a pilot line roughly 50 metres in length and 300 millimetres thick within the next 18 months, and a full-scale building demonstrator within the next three years. The project will run for a total of five years.

With some 4 billion square meters of roofing and facades in the UK, the research team believes the technology's capability is tremendous. The target is to supply 1/3 of the UK's renewable needs by 2020, at Western per capita energy rates. Longer-term, the technology will have application across the world, including in off-grid remote regions. "No matter where you are or what the climate is, this technology has potential," says Mr Bygate.

High-tech coatings are, of course, a part of every-day life, whether it's on the cars we drive or even in foods. "What we are examining are coatings which have a different sort of chemistry – capable of transforming photons into electricity or trapping heat," says Mr David Worsley, Director of research at SPECIFIC. "It's a fairly straight forward process but what we are looking to provide is the best combination of technology, which is not just about capturing energy but also releasing it in a controlled way."

A key factor in choosing the materials will be their sustainability and ubiquity. "Even in the research phase, we are only looking at materials which are relatively easily available," says Mr Worsley. "There is no point examining materials whose rarity would limit their production potential." At the same time, the team will develop a manufacturing process capable of commercialisation – high speed and low cost. "What we have is academia, government and industry working together," said Mr Bygate. "What Tata Steel is providing is the industrial skills of commercialisation and upscaling."

The project is one of a number that Tata Steel is involved in here in the UK – including a £10 million Photovolatic Accelerator Facility, and a Sustainable Building Envelope Centre, both also located in Wales.

Mr Bygate, who also heads business development at Tata Steel's Colors business here in the UK said the firm fit with Tata Steel's ambition of becoming one of the market leaders in environmental innovation. "The project stresses that steel is part of the sustainability story. There is no low carbon future without steel."

Business Standard ND 01/02/2011
p-18

IIM-A 11th, ISB 13th in global MBA rankings

BS REPORTERS
Hyderabad/Ahmedabad,
31 January

The Post-Graduate Programme in Management (PGP) by the Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad, has been ranked 13th in a list of 100 top B-schools in the world, says a business school ranking from the *Financial Times* of London.

According to the Global MBA Rankings 2011, released today, the Post Graduate Programme in Management for Executives (PGPX) delivered by the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIM-A) was placed 11th. This is the first time IIM-A has been included in the ranking.

ISB RANKED IN top 20 for fourth straight year, IIM-A makes maiden entry

ISB maintained a place in the top 20 list for the fourth year. In 2008, when the institute entered the global rankings, it was rated 20th, followed by 15th in 2009, and 12th last year. This year, ISB also recorded the highest percentage increase in salaries among all the 100 schools.

"ISB entered the global rankings in 2008. The consistent ranking reflects our commitment to provide a world-class experience to all stakeholders," ISB Dean Ajit Rangnekar said.

Chairman Rajat Gupta said ISB was committed to grooming leadership and had established new paradigms for management education in India.

ISB, has been in existence for 10 years and pioneered the one-year management programme format in India, targeted at experienced professionals. The class strength grew from 126 in 2001 to 570 in 2011. In 2008, it became the youngest institution globally and the first Indian institution to be ranked among the top 20 global MBA programmes in the world. It is also the largest provider of executive education in India.

For IIM-A, an important component of being eligible for this ranking is that three batches of students should have passed out of a B-school to qualify for this particular ranking.

Shailesh Gandhi, professor and chairperson of the PGPX programme of IIM-A, said: "This ranking proves we are moving into the international league. ISB always had the advantage of a substantial international faculty component, which IIM-A has not had. Another important feature for the ranking is the substantial work experience of the students and this speaks highly of our batch profile. Most of the students of this batch are about 32-33 years and have an average work experience of 11 years. This comparative advantage that was garnered by the institute will simply add on the strength of its students work profile before they joined the PGPX programme."

In September 2010, IIM-A had been ranked eighth for its two-year postgraduate programme in management (PGP) in the *Financial Times* Masters in Management 2010 ranking from among 71 programmes.

ISB is launching a series of initiatives to enhance business leadership in various segments, augment its research focus, and provide careers for young and senior professionals. The school has launched 'Fellow Programme in Management' — equivalent to PhD — to strengthen research.

Economic Times ND 01/02/2011 P3

Ramadorai made PM's skill council advisor

Our Political Bureau
, NEW DELHI

THE Centre has named former Tata Consultancy Services CEO S Ramadorai as an advisor to the prime minister in the National Skill Development Council (NSDC) with the rank of a Cabinet minister.

The council was set up in 2008, to set the vision and form core strategies for developing skills among India's large population of young people. The council forms an important part of the government's initiatives to nurture India's demographic dividend.

He becomes the second high-profile CEO from India's celebrated information technology industry to be tapped to head a key government initiative and accorded a Cabinet rank.

Former Infosys CEO Nandan Nilekani heads the Unique Identification Authority of India.

Ramadorai, currently vice-chairman of TCS, served as CEO between 1996 and 2009. During this period, the company's revenues grew from $400 million to $6 billion.

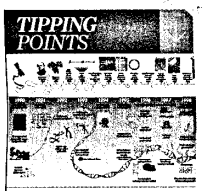
"He has been hand-picked by the prime minister to advise the National Council on Skill Development," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement. The PM's skills development initiative operates through a three-tier structure that has, apart from the council headed by the PM, a co-ordination council headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and a National Skills Development Corporation under the finance ministry. The non-profit corporation is a public-private partnership that focuses on fostering private sector initiatives. "Investment in skills is critical for benefiting from the demographic dividend of India. It is already one of the youngest nations in the world with a majority of people below 30," the PMO statement said. Ramdorai's terms of reference include advising and supervising the development of a strategy for skill development at the national level as well as in states.

Mint, ND 01-Feb-11 P-26 Mint on the decade

THE DECADE IN **SCIENCE**

It was largely a dismal decade for Indian science, but one that held out hope as well—in the form of academics trying to focus on market-based research, growing interest in integrated science programmes, and the emergence of a wave of hi-tech start-ups

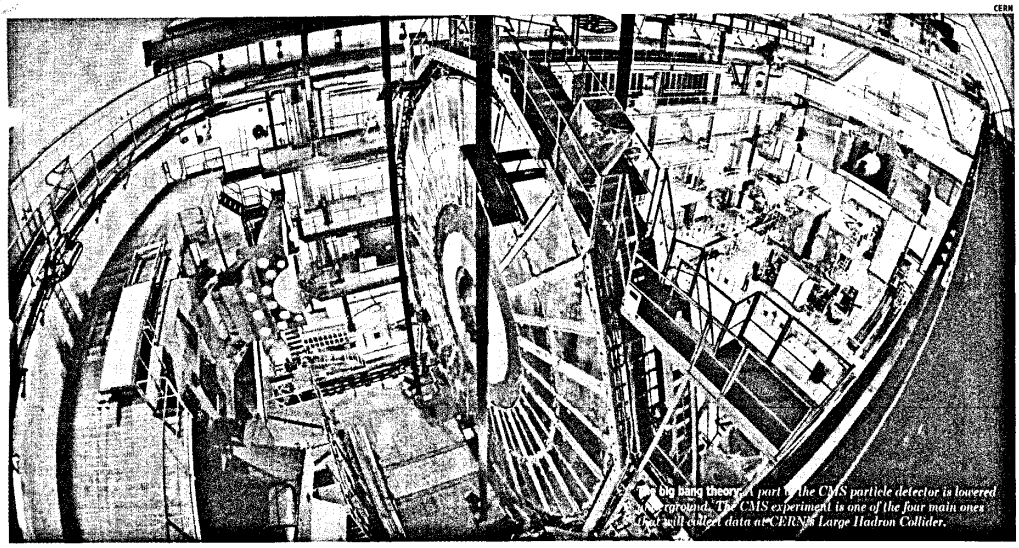
TIPPING POINTS



2001
The Human Genome Consortium for the first time finishes sequencing the human genome. Opens up a cache of opportunities for the field of bioinformatics—especially for India—which, on the bank of its IT-led growth, led to several software start-ups testing applications to study genes, their role in diseases and developing new age diagnostic kits. This, in turn, was the key trigger for similar attempts by Indian scientists to sequence an Indian human genome.

2001
Isro develops the GSLV-class rockets, which facilitate missions such as 'Chandrayaan' and also propels the ANTRIX corporation—Isro's commercial arm—as one of the key players in the multi-billion global satellite launching industry. The GSLV rockets are also expected to be the key load bearers for future manned missions to the moon in the next decade.

2005
C.N.R. Rao, scientific adviser to the prime minister, raises alarm that China was fast overtaking India as a scientific superpower. Though this was largely a policy measure, it triggered the current focus of India's science bureaucracy to revamping undergraduate and graduate education—establishing the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research as well as dramatic budget allocations towards basic science research.



CERN

The big bang theory: A part of the CMS particle detector is lowered underground. The CMS experiment is one of the four main ones that will collect data at CERN's Large Hadron Collider.

By Jacob P. Koshy
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In January 2001, at the dawn of the decade in which climate science would somersault from doomsday fantasy to an obdurate orthodoxy, and stem cells would emerge as the new insurance, prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee exhorted India's largest annual congregation of scientists—the Indian Science Congress—to double the country's food production from 209 million tonnes (mt) then.

It wasn't that there was a dearth of food for India's billion—just that an inefficient public distribution system made it incumbent to produce more to feed its economically diverging citizenry.

Unfortunately, food production hardly increased through the decade, and this January—when it's a little above 230 mt—Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expounded on this year's theme, Quality Education and Excellence in Science Research in Indian Universities, at the science conference. He didn't rake up missed food production goals.

Then, scientists here have been long used to policymakers ignoring previous goals and setting new ones.

Undeniably, it was the decade in which the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) catapulted a nearly 1,400kg satellite into the moon's orbit at a cost that is a fraction of what the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration spent on lunar missions of similar scope, but it was also the period when India's research spending stagnated at 0.8% of gross domestic product (GDP). Every major economy, dedicated over 1% of its annual earnings to research and development (R&D) activities.

Incidentally, Vajpayee, in that same speech in early 2001, had pledged to hike R&D spending to 2% of the GDP.

Scientists at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India's largest consortium of publicly funded research bodies, cumulatively patented more than they had ever done in the history of independent India, but the venerable body continues to spend more money in maintaining these patents than extracting commercial value out of it.

For the first time ever, Indian scientists contributed intellectual capital as well as locally engineered hardware to international collaborative experiments such as the Large Hadron Collider instead of scrounging for "donated time" or being merely "observers" in previous experiments of such ambition and scope. It has become the norm for the country's science ministers over the past few years to mention that all international research collaborations that India now undertakes—whether it's funding solar research or hunting for microbes in the Arctic—is always on "equal" terms—or matching research budgets, with other countries.

It was also the first decade ever that there were three times as many research publications out of China than India, a far cry from the 1980s when the trend was the reverse. Moreover, every major international science prize—be it the Abel Prize for mathematics or the Nobel Prize for sciences—eluded Indian scientists and were at best, and in keeping with half-a-century-old tradition, won by someone of Indian origin and duly celebrated.

A nation whose rapid economic rise is partially powered by information technology (IT) and IT-enabled services, which churns out over 700,000 engineering graduates and around half-a-million science graduates every year, barely has a single-digit percentage of them opting for PhDs and going on to research careers in Indian academic institutions.

To cite Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development data, India has 119 researchers per million of population, compared with 1,564 in China, 2,706 in the UK, 4,605 in the US, and 6,807 in Iceland. Even in terms of the number of researchers per 1,000 people employed, India, with 24 researchers, ranks below China (115), Japan (131), the US (324) and the European Union (231).

It isn't that Indian science administrators are blind to the reality of the paucity of disruptive science in India. The Planning Commission earmarks generous funding commitments to improve science infrastructure in its Five-Year Plan documents, yet, skimming through the annual budget documents shows that a significant chunk of the money goes unspent.

This discrepancy, it is argued, is largely due to a lack of absorptive capacity within India's universities and research institutions. Ossified teaching departments that rarely encourage interdisciplinary research; bright, science students opting for careers in engineering, management and eventually investment banking instead of research, and a dearth of options that can lure smart students, pursuing their research in the US and Europe, back to Indian research labs are the key problems that stymie this spending.

There are slivers of hope, though, and this is most evident in recent trends that indicate scientists and academics in India's most hallowed institutions, actively involved in "commercializing" their research. Taking cues from their counterparts in universities abroad, researchers at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) now actively flaunt their commercial and industrial consulting projects as much as citations in high impact factor journals. It isn't unusual now to hear of government research labs discuss taking a "stake" in a start-ups, or actively negotiating with international companies to sell intellectual property for profit.

Over at least the past seven years, several multinational firms including Microsoft Corp. and International Business Machines Corp. have been setting up their key research centres in India, often recruiting the brightest of Indian scientists and researchers to power their patent pipeline. It isn't unusual now to see several fresh graduates spurning hefty pay packets to set up their own companies and often in extremely competitive spaces such as microprocessor design, low-cost computing solutions as well as nanotechnology-based drug-design.

Cracking the Joint Entrance Examination to the IITs continues to be the ambitious engineering aspirant's pet torment, but a small but growing proportion of these students now use these tests to pursue undergraduate courses at newly minted institutions such as the multi-city Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, where the traditional three-year bachelor of science courses are being replaced by more holistic four- and five-year dual degree science programmes that encourage students to explore and delve deeper into disciplines such as physics, mathematics, chemistry and biology, than be monochromatic, assembly line software graduates.

Indeed, in line with global trends, President Pratibha Patil has already declared this decade as being "decade of Innovation". Whether that will be another missed target—like the food production goals—is something only the calendar will tell.

PETER HIGGS
English-born theoretical physicist Higgs is known for his proposal explaining the origin of mass of elementary particles. The Higgs boson, an elusive particle, is thought to be the cornerstone of establishing the validity of the so-called Standard Model of Physics.

VS RAMACHANDRAN
The neuroscientist is known for his work on how a specific class of neurons—mirror neurons—play a key role in determining why humans have empathy towards new-age approaches to treating psychiatric disorders such as depression.

CRAIG VENTER
Considered the guru in the field of synthetic biotechnology, Venter and his group is on the verge of creating bacteria in laboratories that are indistinguishable to the human immune system.

3
That's the number of women who have won India's most prestigious prize for scientists under 45, the Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Awards last year. In the 52-year history of the awards, only 14 women among 463 scientists have won, and this is the first time that so many won in a single year. Over the past few years, concerns have been raised over the dwindling contribution of women scientists to top-class research out of India. The government even constituted a task force to look into this. Last year's haul, several say, was a significant achievement and will greatly encourage women to have longer and more fruitful careers in science research.

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IIT(G) project engineer held

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Jan 27 – The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) today arrested Dipayan Das(23), a project engineer of Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IITG) for allegedly bringing disrepute to a girl by opening fake 'Orkut' and 'Facebook' accounts.

Das, according to CID sources, resorted to the crime after parents of the girl refused his marriage proposal. "He has a very brilliant academic career and even secured rank in HSLC exams. He also did his B Tech from National Institute of Technology," sources stated.

Das, a project engineer of the Humanitarian Social Science department of the IITG, was arrested from the IITG campus this evening.